

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives truly believe that educational opportunities must be increased in order for students to be prepared to accept the roles of societal leaders which await them in the near future; and

Whereas, the citizens of the St. Louis metropolitan area stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs because they provide a safe, friendly learning environment for kids that boosts their academic achievement, support working families by ensuring that children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends, build strong communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, and encourage families to become more effective partners in children's education; and

Whereas, St. Louis for Kids has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping children become successful adults; and

Whereas, Lights on Afterschool is a national celebration of afterschool programs which will take place on October 9, 2003, to promote the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and

Whereas, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

Whereas, St. Louis for Kids is sponsoring the "Linking Afterschool to Academic Success" Symposium and Celebration on October 9, 2003, at the St. Louis Science Center in cooperation with Archs, St. Louis Partners Americorps, St. Louis Public Schools, and the YMCA of Metropolitan St. Louis:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the leadership and contributions so generously given by the St. Louis for Kids organization and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's heartiest best wishes for unparalleled success on October 9, 2003, during the Lights on Afterschool! Symposium and Celebration entitled "Linking Afterschool to Academic Success" at the St. Louis Science Center; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in recognition of the St. Louis Lights on Afterschool! Symposium and Celebration.

Offered by _____
Representative Juanita Head Walton
District No. 81

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4343, adopted October 3, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker